

Drop in Article

## **New Suspicious Activity Report Form Now Available for Money Service Businesses**

A new Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) form is now available for Money Service Businesses. Money Service Businesses must stop using the interim Bank SAR (Form TD F 90-22.47) and start to report suspicious activity using the new SAR-MSB form.

### **Who Must File a SAR**

The Bank Secrecy Act requires certain money service businesses (MSB) to report suspicious activity. The MSBs required to report suspicious activities are:

1. **Money transmitters**
2. **Money order** - issuers, sellers and redeemers
3. **Travelers check** - issuers, sellers and redeemers
4. **U. S. Postal Service**

Any other MSB may voluntarily file a report of suspicious activity.

### **When to File a SAR**

A SAR must be filed when a transaction or pattern of transactions conducted by, at or through the MSB is both suspicious and \$2,000 or more.<sup>1</sup>

MSBs must file the form within 30 days after becoming aware of a suspicious transaction.

A copy of the filed form and supporting documentation must be retained for five years from the date of filing.

### **Filing a Suspicious Activity Report**

Form TD F 90-22.56, the new Suspicious Activity Report by Money Services Business SAR-MSB), is available for immediate use. MSBs must stop using the interim Bank SAR (Form TD F 90-22.47) and start to report suspicious activity by filing the new SAR-MSB form.

The new SAR-MSB form is available as:

- The form only
- Continuation sheet
- Instructions

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<sup>1</sup> A \$5,000 threshold applies of issuers of money orders and travelers checks when the suspicious nature of the transaction(s) is determined from a review of clearance records or other similar records.

To obtain these items, visit one of the following web sites:

- MSB web site - [www.msb.gov](http://www.msb.gov):
  - SAR-MSB - TD F 90-22.56 (form only)
  - SAR-MSB Continuation Sheet (TD F 90-22.56A)
  - SAR-MSB Instructions (TD F 90-22.56B)
- FinCEN web site - [www.treas.gov/fincen](http://www.treas.gov/fincen)
- IRS web site - [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

**OR** call the IRS Forms Distribution Center 1-800-829-3676.

If you have any questions, please call 1-800-800-2877.

### **Suspicious**

A transaction must be reported if the MSB knows, suspects or has reason to suspect that the transaction or a pattern of transactions:

1. Involves funds derived from illegal activity or is intended or conducted in order to hide or disguise funds or assets derived from illegal activity; or is
2. Designed to evade the requirements of the Bank Secrecy Act, whether through structuring or other means; or,
3. Serves no business or apparent lawful purpose, and the reporting business knows of no reasonable explanation for the transaction after examining all available facts

### **Disclosure Prohibited**

MSBs and their employees are prohibited from disclosing to a person involved in the transaction that a suspicious activity report has been filed. Further, each MSB or MSB employee is protected from civil liability for any SAR filed.

### **Penalties**

Civil and criminal penalties may be imposed for willful violation of the SAR filing requirement.